

SP-C3 Cultural Resources Management*October 25, 2002***1.0 Introduction/Background**

This study will result in the development of a Cultural Resources Management Plan, which will be used to manage significant cultural resources for the duration of the anticipated new FERC license, to determine potential site stabilization or other active resource protection needs, and to consider possible areas within the Study Area that should be managed primarily for their cultural heritage values.

2.0 Study Objectives

The objectives of this study are to: evaluate the need and methods to provide protection of cultural resources and to determine the effects of existing and future project facilities, operations and maintenance (O&M) on cultural resource values (including archaeological sites, historic resources, and traditional use areas) within the Study Area. Specifically, significant cultural resources identified during Study #1—Cultural Resources Inventory and Study #2—Cultural Resources Evaluation must be managed in relation to ongoing project O&M and future development/management activities.

3.0 Relationship to Relicensing/Need for Study

The Federal Power Act of 1920 requires that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) consider the effects of their actions on historical and archaeological resources. In addition, FERC must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and other federal laws prior to issuing a new hydroelectric license for the Study Area. When making certain discretionary decisions, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other applicable state laws. These laws and associated regulations require the consideration of potential effects on and impacts to cultural resources that may be listed in, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historical Places (National Register) and/or the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), and the assessment of methods needed to avoid, reduce, or otherwise resolve adverse effects that may be occurring.

This study will address Issue Statement CR2—evaluate the needs and methods to provide protection of cultural resources within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and Issue Statement CR3—determine the effects of existing and future project facilities, operations, and maintenance on significant cultural resources. The study will also provide input for Issue Statement C4—provide for the interpretation of cultural resources and make available cultural resources data relative to the Study Area. Specific Issues that will be addressed include: CRE 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24-26, 28, 29, 33, 35-38, 41, 42, 45, 46, 50, 52-54, 58, and 59.

4.0 Study Area

The Study Area includes Lake Oroville, the lands and waters within the FERC project boundary, and adjacent lands, facilities, and areas with a clear project nexus. Inventory areas may be further expanded if data indicate that potentially significant cultural resources are, or are likely to be, affected by project operations. DWR and FERC will, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Native American Tribes and other interested and knowledgeable members of the public, establish the Area of Potential Effects (APE), as defined in the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA.

5.0 General Approach

Detailed Methodology and Analysis Procedures

Efforts related to this study will be based on the results of Studies #1 and #2. DWR will work with FERC, other agencies (California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the SHPO, local Native American individuals and groups, and other interested parties to develop methods intended to increase protection of significant cultural resources, maintain existing levels of protection of other cultural resources, and to develop a Cultural Resources Management Plan.

This study is expected to include additional background research, oral interviews, tribal and agency consultation/coordination, limited fieldwork, data analysis (including sensitivity modeling), and reporting. Standards and guidelines for assessing project effects and preparing management plans have been issued by the National Park Service and the California Office of Historic Preservation. These standards and guidelines will be used to help refine the procedures to be implemented during this study.

Task 1—Assess Project Effects

After information on the nature, distribution and eligibility of cultural resources within the Study Area has been gathered and assessed during Studies #1 and #2, DWR and FERC (in consultation/coordination with federal land management agencies, Native American Tribes, and other interested parties) will consider the nature and magnitude of effects on cultural resources resulting from ongoing O&M activities, including developed and undeveloped recreation activities occurring within the Study Area. It is expected that limited fieldwork will be needed to gather more precise information on adverse effects resulting from wave action, project O&M activities, looting/vandalism, and casual recreational use. Any new project-related developments under consideration will also be examined for their potential to affect significant cultural resources.

Task 2—Prepare Cultural Resources Management Plan

The policies and methods to protect and manage cultural resources within the Study Area will be documented in a Cultural Resources Management Plan. Preparation of the plan will involve consultation/coordination with land management agencies (including DPR, BLM, the SHPO, and USFS), Native American Tribes, other interested parties, FERC and other knowledgeable individuals and groups.

6.0 Results and Products/Deliverables

Results

This section to be developed.

Products/Deliverables

The following product will be developed for this study:

- Cultural Resources Management Plan

The plan will address archaeological resources, historic-era resources, and ethnography and ethnohistory (i.e., traditional cultural properties).

Anticipated elements of the plan include: public and worker education; site stabilization or other treatment methods to avoid or reduce impacts to significant cultural resources; management of public access; and steps to be followed in the context of future development actions. The plan will be prepared and handled in full recognition of the confidential nature of certain sensitive cultural resources data. Confidential resource information will not be distributed to the public.

7.0 Coordination and Implementation Strategy

Coordination with Other Resource Areas/Studies

It is anticipated that information gathered by the Land Use and Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Groups (projected population growth/distribution trends, plans for future recreational developments, etc.) will be helpful to this study. Studies being conducted by the Engineering and Operations Work Group (flood studies, management of reservoir levels) may also provide useful information. The results of this study will be coordinated with Study #4—Cultural Resources Interpretive Evaluation Study.

The presence of significant cultural resources may affect proposed development plans being considered by DWR or other work groups. For example, considerations by the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group to develop new facilities (recreational trails, boat ramps, etc.) will need to be considered in light of the cultural resources inventory, evaluation, and management studies being conducted by DWR. Areas that may be identified as suitable for management as heritage preservations areas will need to be coordinated with the Land Use Work Group and possibly others.

In addition, close coordination with other work groups will be needed to ensure awareness of potential studies that may influence the Study Area in relation to the cultural resources management plan (potential desire for new recreational facilities or fuel-load reduction efforts outside the FERC project boundary).

Issues, Concerns, Comments Tracking and/or Regulatory Compliance Requirements

This study plan was developed to address Issue Statements CR2 and CR3—evaluate the needs and methods to provide protection of cultural resources within the Study Area, and determine the effects of existing and future project facilities, operations, and maintenance on significant cultural resources, respectively. Specific Issues that will be addressed include: CRE 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24-26, 28, 29, 33, 35-38, 41, 42, 45, 46, 50, 52-54, 58, and 59. This study is expected to provide information needed to these Issues, as well as to provide input to Issue Statement CR4—provide for the interpretation of cultural resources and make available cultural resources data relative to the Study Area.

This study will be conducted in compliance with the requirements of applicable state and federal laws, regulations, and guidelines, including the NHPA, National Park Service and California Office of Historic Preservation guidelines, USFS and BLM procedures, and CEQA guidelines.

8.0 Study Schedule

Data collection: October 2003 through November 2004.

Data analysis and report writing: January through December 2004.

Draft Cultural Resources Management Plan due: December 2004.